

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 AID-10 SPC-01 L-02

NEA-06 PM-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 AF-04 IO-03 DRC-01 /080 W

----- 083459

R 100934Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9656

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 13692

LIMDIS

BANGKOK PASS RED

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EAID, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: US INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT OF MINDANAO

1. THE PHILIPPINE EFFORT TO WOO THE ARABS IN RETURN FOR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION IN THE OIL TRADE HAS TAKEN ON A NEW DIMENSION WHICH WILL DIRECTLY AFFECT U.S. AID AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN THE MUSLIM AREAS OF MINDANAO. PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS TOLD ME, WITH SOME DELICADEZA, THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER A CONSPICUOUS U.S.

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PRESENCE OR PROGRAM IN THE MUSLIM AREAS OF THE PHILIPPINES

A SOURCE OF POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT TO HIS INTERNATIONAL POLITICS.

2. THE PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN AMONG THE ARABS ANTEDATES, OF COURSE, THE CURRENT OIL CRISIS. IT WAS UNDERTAKEN IN UVFIRST INSTANCE IN AN EFFORT TO DISSUADE ISLAMIC STATES (PARTICULARLY LIBYA) FROM MEDDLING IN THE MUSLIM PROBLEM. IT WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY A RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL VISIT OF ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS TO THE PHILIPPINES IN AUGUST OF THIS YEAR.

3. NOW, HOWEVER, WITH MANILA DESPERATELY ATTEMPTING TO SCRAMBLE ONTO THE OAPEC "FRIENDLY" LIST, THE NATURE OF PHILIPPINE CONCERN FOR ARAB SENSITIVITIES HAS BECOME MORE ACUTE. THEREFORE, MARCOS IS EXAMINING HIS GOVERNMENT'S STEPS WITH INCREASING CARE. IN ASKING US TO LIMIT OUR ACTIVITY IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, MARCOS MADE REFERENCE TO "RUMORS" THAT THERE WAS AN ELEMENT OF U.S.- ISRAELI COLLABORATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD IMPINGE ON THE MUSLIMS.

4. WHILE THESE "RUMORS" ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION, WE HAVE LEARNED THEY ARE BASED ON FACT THAT (A) EAGER YOUNG PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER HAD INDEED ASKED FOR ISRAELI ASSISTANCE, AND (B) THERE WAS CONFUSION CONCERNING PURPOSE OF SEVERAL RECENT USAID AND RED VISITS TO MUSLIM MINDANAO.

5. I HAVE TOLD MARCOS WE HAVE NO PASSIONATE YEARNING TO BE INVOLVED IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, AND WOULD THEREFORE BE QUITE WILLING TO LIMIT OUR PRESENCE TO CURRENT LEVELS. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WHICH USAID DIRECTOR AND I HAVE HAD WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR, WE HAVE REACHED GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THOSE LIMITED ACTIONS WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE. I HAVE ALSO ESTABLISHED AN INFORMAL TRAVEL CONTROL ARRANGEMENT UNDER DIRECTION OF THE DCM IN ORDER TO DECREASE THE FREQUENCY OF OFFICIAL U.S. TRIPS TO THE AREA AND TO ASSURE THAT THEY ARE PROPERLY COORDINATED WITH PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES.

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6. DEPT. WILL DOUBTLESS WISH TO TAKE THESE D*VELOP*ENTS INTO ACCOUNT IN FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF NSSM 180. SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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